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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 9 March 1950

SUBJECT Health of the Albanian Population

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1. The reports of Soviet specialists allegedly show that the general health of the Albanian population has become poor and is affecting not only industrial and agricultural production, but the manpower of the army as well.

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employed in industry and mines are chronic sufferers from malaria, syphilis and eye diseases ("maladie des yeux egyptienne"). In country districts things are better, though far from satisfactory. 18% of recruits inspected in 1949 were reportedly exempted from military service on medical grounds.

3. Dr. Vasov's report to the Soviet authorities included the following "Incidence of Disease and Mortality Tables" for various parts of Albania, covering the period 1 January-31 October 1949.

Town or District	C A S E S O F						
	Measles	Typhus	Typhoid	Malaria	Scarlet	Dysentery	Diphtheria
			Fever		Fever		
Tirana - City	911	13	49	1007	903	1215	78
" - District	1076	32	326	907	1720	1511	415
Shkoder - Town	488	29	326	939	318	822	23
" - District	605	7	52	2196	780	2289	211
Gjinokaster	98	119	672	545	2077	3416	2110
Berat	2320	88	489	4017	1936	3015	1849
Korce	4371	103	897	5204	2740	5118	2966
Kukes	1012	23	471	898	940	1360	726
Peshkop	755	19	927	374	1555	2127	1502
Durres	1636	46	1062	3694	2230	3468	1692
Elbasan	1759	58	943	3611	718	4030	1896
Vlone	5943	117	2368	8502	4014	11465	4799

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Town or District	DEATHS FROM						
	Measles	Typhus	Typhoid	Malaria	Scarlet	Dysentery	Diphtheria
Tirana - City	17	11	14	315	39	3	19
" - District	42	18	46	93	248	301	33
Shkoder - Town	20	1	1	196	12	64	2
" - District	51	5	1	204	33	372	51
Gjinokaster	18	47	46	78	214	266	125
Berat	59	13	21	380	66	92	27
Korce	303	4	--	324	82	407	39
Kukes	67	2	15	41	94	100	12
Peshkop	28	9	24	17	69	215	83
Durres	36	--	102	139	95	274	101
Elbasan	50	22	46	274	--	307	2
Vlone	75	21	83	333	16	84	37

4. The reports indicate the completely inadequate state of medical assistance in Albania, practically the only medical attention given the local population being that provided by Soviet doctors. The Albanian Health Service lacks doctors, nurses, medicines and surgical instruments. [redacted] the first-aid equipment of the whole army is only sufficient for two regiments and is in pitiable condition. [redacted] although the mortality rate is largely offset by the birth rate, the situation is nevertheless serious. 50X1-HUM
5. Tirana, with a population of 45,000, possesses three hospitals and two small clinics. Even the Soviet hospital, the best of the three, only has 50 beds. Both clinics have been organized by the Soviet authorities, who are also in control of the Women's Hospital at Vlone. In addition, there are 25 hospitals and clinics in Albania, mostly of an extremely primitive kind. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
6. There are reportedly three sanatoria in the country, one located at Pogradec which was set up [redacted] and since modernized by the Soviets and accommodating 1,000 patients, in addition to the sanatoria at Vlone and near Tirana, neither of which has any of the necessary equipment. 50X1-HUM
7. [redacted] a report [redacted] gives the infant mortality rate during the first 10 months of 1949 as being nearly 600, death being due among other causes, to the following diseases: 50X1-HUM
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| General debility | 101 |
| Syphilis | 89 |
| Pulmonary diseases | 82 |
| Eye diseases | 73 |
8. [redacted] malaria and syphilis is the most widespread of diseases, with which [redacted] Soviet doctors alone are capable of dealing. [redacted] ambulance service at Tirana allegedly dealt with 6,000 cases during the 10 months under review, while the 12 Soviet mobile teams, with a staff of 44 doctors and nurses and 17 Albanian orderlies, dealt with 15,420 cases. 50X1-HUM
9. Provision is allegedly being made for the establishment of six new military clinics. Mrs. Lira Gega, secretary of the Albanian Women's Anti-Fascist Union (at present in Moscow), is responsible for organizing these clinics. 50X1-HUM

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They will reportedly be named after the following six Albanian female
Partisans shot during the war.

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"Margarita Tutulani"

"Liri Gerro"

"Shejnaz Juka"

"Penelopi Pirro"

"Haxhire Myza"

"Geriba Derri"

The necessary equipment is being obtained from Czechoslovakia, the motor
ambulances being supplied by Hungary.

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